

Message Text

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17

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4175

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EMIN, PLOS,CA

SUBJECT: BACKLASH ON CANADAIN NATIONAL-INTEREST APPROACH TO LAW OF
THE SEA -- MEDIA REACTION

1. IN EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLE IN SEPTEMBER 11 TORONTO STAR, WILLIAM
R. FRYE WROTE THAT "THE CANADAIN-AMERICAN FLOP OVER NICKEL MINING"
AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE "IS A COLD COLLISION OF NATIONAL
INTEREST, NARROWLY VIEWED."

2. FRYE, IN HIS ARTICLE "CANADA'S NATIONAL-INTEREST CHICKENS COME
HOME TO ROOST", WROTE THAT THE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE "INCHES
FORWARD AT THE PACE OF A SOMNOLENT SNAIL" BUT NOTED THAT THE LOBBYING
OF THE CANADAIN DELEGATION FOR RECOGNITIONOF CANADA'S SPECIAL RIGHTS
ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF HAS BEEN GETTING RESULTS. THE ARTICLE
POINTED OUT THAT THE BAIT, CONTRIBUTION ONE TO FIVE PERCENT OF THE
REVENUE FROM THE SHELF TO AN INTERNATIONAL FUND PRIMARILY FOR THE
POOREST COUNTRIES, APPEALS TO SUCH COUNTRIES BUT THEY ARE ASKING
FOR THREE TO FIFTEEN PERCENT.

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3. FRYE ADDRESSED HIS MAJOR THEME BY NOTING THE LACK OF LOGIC IN THE CANADAIN POSTION THAT EXPLOITATION OF THE OCEN FLOOR AS FAR AS THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN AND THE RISE BEYOND IT "IS A GREAT BOON TO HUMANITY" (BECAUSE OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS) BUT THAT "EXPLOITATION OF THE REST OF THE OCEAN FLOOR IS A DANGER TO BE FEARED, BECAUSE IT THREATNES TO COMPETE WITH LAND-BASED MINING OPERATIONS "NICKEL)". AFTER DISCUSSING THE DIVERGENT INTERESTS OF THE US AND CANADA AND THE CANADAIN LIMITATION PROPOSAL VERSUS THE US GROWTH PROPOSAL IN NICKEL, FRYE ENDED "BUT AMERICANS ARE IN A POWERFUL BARGAINING POSITION, BECAUSE HEY CAN GO AHEAD AND MINE THE SEABED WITH OR WITHOUT A UN BLESSING. SO THE ABSENCE OF AN OBJECTIVE STANDARD OF EQUITY WORKS AGAINST CANADA -- AND CANADA MAY HAVE REASON TO REGRET IT HEAVY RELIANCE ON NATIONAL INTEREST AS A PIRINCIPAL, IF NOT ALWAYS THE ONLY, CRITERION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY".
DIGGINS

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